

The Groundplane

The monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Amateur Radio Association

July 2008

Volume 9 Issue 7

Bill, WB9YVM — Editor

Fremont, Ca.

Prez Says OR “How I Spent My Field Day Weekend”

Field day come in 3 phases for me. There is the “work like a fool” part where we are trying to get all the tents set up, antennas in place, etc.” Then comes the relaxing part where I get to sit down and work a few Qs followed by schmoozing with friends and new comers, followed by the take-down (always faster than setup).

Obviously I do all this for the middle part! This year had a new twist to it though. I spent the entire weekend at the site with the exception of two trips home to take a shower after waking up. This added a new dimension for me. My wife and son spent the entire weekend with me this year also. Each had fun in their own way with the event.

I think the best part of the event was meeting folks who were just wondering what we were doing. It gave me a chance to evangelize a little bit about a hobby I've been an avid pursuer of for over 30 years. This was always followed up by escorting them to our GOTA tent where they got a chance to try it out themselves. From this experience I've come to believe that the GOTA station is the most important station we put up! If we don't get new blood into our hobby/service, it will die off! The GOTA station is a key helper in showing off some of the magic that is still there for me after 30 years. I want to say thanks to Carol and Sam for their hard work during the event.

I also want to extend my sincerest ap-

preciation to the Feriante clan for the marvelous repast they gave us Saturday nite. For those of you that don't know, both Kortnee and Adam are back in school again along with their other pursuits. To put on the dinner that we had along with their busy schedules is an amazing accomplishment. Needless to say, the Tri-tip was GREAT! I thought it was as good as you can get in Santa Maria!

Next I want to say thanks to Al Rendon and his crew that got all the antennas together this year. Al spent countless hours over the last year constructing and testing new antennas for our Field Day effort. This was a labor of love (and frustration for Al). We still have some fine-tuning to do, but that is the nature of the hobby. Have you ever been to a Field Day where Murphy didn't make an appearance??? Most of the antenna systems worked marvelously, and we have ideas how to fix the ones that gave us some grief. I think that part of the experience is really the essence of why we have Field Day. We learn what works and doesn't work, then try to improve things. From this alone I guess we can say that Field Day was a success!

Finally, I want to thank all of the station captains and their helpers (you know who you were!) for pulling the equipment together to let us operate 4A.

See - it takes a whole bunch of people working together to make Field Day a success, each doing their part. I think we all had a great time! See you next year out at Lake Elizabeth!



Volunteers are needed for the Hayward Zucchini Festival...See Al for

There will be no August Groundplane since the News Editor will be taking a much needed vacation! Publishing will resume with the September back to school issue!

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SBARA K3 Field Day 2008 Raffle Winner

Winner of the 2008 K3 Field Day raffle,
Ernie Anaya KF6FFE (left),
receiving the K3 from Steve Wilson KA6S, SBARA President.



WAY TO GO ERNIE !!! CONGRATULATIONS
TO YOU FROM SBARA.....

Field Day 2008— By Ti-Michelle Connelly, NJ6T

From the wilds of northeast CT. Lots of trees but, alas the campground has a "no hang" policy so the G5RV stayed in the locker. I stayed with the High Sierra®™ worked 15 & 20 meter phone. Propagation was N-S until dusk when the mid west and south west stations started to pop in. Sections worked Maritime, VE1, 2, & 3. ME, NH, VT, WNY, NLI, ENY, VA, WV, EPA, WPA, NC, SC, GA, VI, PR, NFL, WCF AR, AL, TN, KY, OH, MI, MN, MO, IL, IN, WI, NTX, STX, WTX, OK, NM, AZ, LAX, ORG, OR and AK. I did hear a SCV but couldn't work him. Funny, I didn't work any CT or RI stations even though there were 3 stations splatting all over the place (ala: HLH) for those that remember...Blackie from SL

Nice part about the campground is lots of spectators, tons of kids who were very interested in the non-contest contest. Lot of comment about the High Sierra and how it worked. A couple of truckers wanted to know where I got my CB antenna. One of them announced to whoever was in ear shout "that antenna ain't no good, it will never get out" After he heard me work KP4 PZT in Puerto Rico (5 & 9) he changed his tune. I had a bunch of ARRL comic books that the kids devoured. The adults took the brochures I had on hand I let those assembled who wanted, make a contact or two the kids loved it. Of course running 1 rig and trying to do PR lowers the contacts. I set up my ATV station and go oohs and ahs when I turned it on. I set the camera up at the pool the tape measure of antennas worked really well looks like crap but hey it did the job.

Weather conditions: low 70°F high 87°F Rh 87% Thank goodness for A/C. I had planned on staying outside the RV but the humidity was way too much for this woman to be comfortable and I moved inside about 8 pm.. I used my 1500 watt generator for the radio and kept the RV plugged into the main for the AC.

I lost my voice Sunday morning with 7 hours to go. My QSO total on phone 143 contacts. Oh, one more thing my pc died (power supply) so I had to log by hand and couldn't switch to psk when the voice went.

I did have a lot of fun. The hardest thing was remembering to say CT not EB.

73, Ti

SBARA Dinner Location, Meeting Nights

There will be our traditional 6:00pm pre-meeting dinner located at:

Wok City Diner 46531 Mission Blvd. Fremont.

Their phone number is **490-3344**

Before the Monthly meeting. Food is Chinese style mild to spicy hot. We always have a crowd plus, lots

of ham radio goodies are discussed that are not part of the normal SBARA monthly meeting!

We would invite you to Come and Join Us !!!

Latitude: 37.53306°N

Longitude: 121.91917°W

Seminar, Exam, and ECOMM Classes — July, 2008

WHAT: Amateur Radio ("Ham") License & Communications Course

Study to pass a 35-question, multiple-choice FCC exam (no Morse code) to get a radio license to use certain frequencies in a disaster, etc.

WHEN: Tuesdays: 6:30 pm - 9 pm: July 1, 8, 15 & 22 (July 22 is exam night)

Also: There will be a special Emergency Communications Training Class (ideal for new radio operators or those wishing to learn about ARES/RACES). See below.

WHERE: Menlo Park Fire Sta. 77: 1467 Chilco St.

COST: \$40.00

[make check payable to "Menlo Park Fire Protection District"]

[please bring your check to first class and give to Carol Parker]

Please write your phone # and e-mail address on the check

MATERIAL: The ARRL Ham Radio License book will be provided for this class.

INSTRUCTORS: David Fichou (Menlo Fire ARES) & Ken Dueker (Palo Alto P.D.)

REGISTER: Ken Dueker: kdueker@powerflare.com
Advise if you also wish to attend the Emergency Comm class.

Sponsored by: Menlo Park Fire Protection District CERT:

www.menlofire.org/cert

This course is open to the public but is designed

for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Red Cross, and other emergency volunteers, including first responders. There is a maximum of 35 students for this class (priority for disaster volunteer members).

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CLASS:

This class is designed for CERT members, ham radio operators, neighborhood teams, and others who want to learn about communications in a disaster. Covers all radio and communications systems, including Ham, FRS, police, fire, etc. You don't need a ham license for this class, but it is preferred.

WHAT: Emergency Communications Course for Ham Radio & CERT

WHEN: Tuesday, July 29, 2008: 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

WHERE: TBA (Menlo Park area)

COST: FREE !

BRING: Your radio(s) & instruction manuals for them

INSTRUCTORS: David Fichou (Menlo Fire ARES) & Ken Dueker (Palo Alto P.D.)

REGISTER: Ken Dueker: kdueker@powerflare.com

Sponsored by: Menlo Park Fire Protection District CERT:

www.menlofire.org/cert

CERT Drill Reminder— Jeff Koger, KG6NEB

Hello All,

Just a reminder that Saturday, July 19th will be the CERT Skills refresher drill and they will need amateur radio support. The hours of the drill is from 0900 to 1500. Please advise the HAMS in your district of the exercise and that we need their help. If I have enough help I will make it a 3 hour shift. They just need to

bring their VHF Handheld. Have your volunteers email me at wa6awi@arrl.net. Also there is a meeting Wednesday night June 25 @ 1830 at CERT Central to discuss the communications needs of the exercise, if you can attend it would be beneficial to all.

Thanks for your support, 73s

Hayward Zucchini Festival — Al Rendon, WT6K

Want to practice your emergency communication technique? Well this year once again SBARA will be providing the communications support at the Hayward Zucchini Festival on August 16th and 17th. You will join other SBARA members in a controlled net environment using business band radios provided by the festival management. You will provide communications from one of the many entrance gates back to net control during your shift.

We need to fill 22 shifts each day and because we will not be using amateur radio frequencies we receive a nice stipend for all the shifts we cover with members like you.

Please consider helping out. It is our major fundraiser of the year and the money we earn makes it possible for the club to do many activities otherwise not possible.

Looking forward to seeing some of the new members and of course the members who have participated for years. It is a fun event and you can bring the family. Your participation gives the family free entrance and you get a free lunch.

SBARA Leadership Team

A new convenient way to sign-up to work a shift at this year's Zucchini Festival is being developed by our webmaster, Umesh K6VUG.

It will allow you to sign up on the SBARA web page and choose the shift you want to right in the comfort of your own home.

Besides having fun, if you sign up you will be eligible for a drawing.

Last year we gave a Yaesu FT 2100m transceiver.

SBARA CW Practice Group — Bernhard Hailer, AE6YN

SBARA CW Practice Group

Dear CW enthusiast (or prospective enthusiast),

There was an accident during preparation of the last Groundplane issue. Some information was mixed up and we listed incorrect dates and frequencies for our CW schedule. The correct data for our CW practicing is every:

Tuesday, 8 p.m.

Sunday, 4 p.m.

on

21.400 Mhz +/- 5 kHz

We will slow down for you, don't be scared away if somebody is really fast there! Just send a „bk“ and

your callsign, we will adjust to your skills. We will also be able to listen to and to send SSB, usually we do some short chat in SSB at the end of our practice rounds.

Looking forward to meet you on 15m!

Isaac, KI6DIL, Amanda, AF6YL, AI, WT6K and I would be happy to meet you, too!

Bernhard, AE6YN

ae6yn (at) arrl (dot) net

Certificate Chasing — Brad Douglas, KB8UYR/6

For anyone that chases special event certificates, my other passion, K3FBI the club station for the Federal Bureau of Investigation ARA will be on the air all month celebrating the FBI's 100th birthday July 26, 1908. We will have many different portable stations on

the air around the country.

This weekend K3FBI/9 from Indiana will be on 20 meter phone around 14.290.

I will also operated K3FBI from home on 40, 20, 15 PSK

Hope you can be a part of our celebration.

Hobby Day Fremont — Umesh Ghodke

Fremont will have it's first Hobby Day. Save the date, it will be on August 10th, 2008 at the REI facility in Fremont. Organizers are pleased that Amateur radio will be represented at the event!

Tables and Chairs—provided

Snacks and Water—provided

Plenty of Shade—(Umbrellas but no canopies)

Participants are expected to bring their own display boards for their demos.

This is still in the planning stages. Questions? Contact Umesh—K6YUG@sbcglobal.net

ANAHEIM, CA

(Near Disneyland)
933 N. Euclid St., 92801
(714) 533-7373
(800) 854-6046
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.
anaheim@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA

1525 W. Magnolia Blvd, 91506
(818) 842-1786
(800) 854-6046
Eric, KAGIHT, Mgr.
Magnolia between
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burbank@hamradio.com

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2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
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Mark, W17YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

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(858) 560-4900
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Tom, KM6K, Mgr.
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sandiego@hamradio.com

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510 Lawrence Exp. #102, 94085
(408) 736-9496
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Howard, W6HOC, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

NEW CASTLE, DE

(Near Philadelphia)
1509 N. Dupont Hwy., 19720
(302) 322-7092
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Rick, K3TL, Mgr.
RT.13 1/4 mi., So. I-295
newcastle@hamradio.com

PORTLAND, OR

11705 S.W. Pacific Hwy.
97223
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Leon, W7AD, Mgr.
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portland@hamradio.com

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8400 E. Iliff Ave. #9, 80231
(303) 745-7373
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John, N5EHP, Mgr.
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1939 W. Dunlap Ave., 85021
(602) 242-3515
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6071 Buford Hwy., 30340
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Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr.
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atlanta@hamradio.com

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14803 Build America Dr. 22191
(703) 643-1063
(800) 444-4799
Steve, W4SHG, Mgr.
Exit 161, I-95, So. to US 1
woodbridge@hamradio.com

SALEM, NH

(Near Boston)
224 N. Broadway, 03079
(603) 898-3750
(800) 444-0047
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**South Bay Amateur Radio
Association**
Founded 1974
Mailing Address
Box 8401
Fremont, Ca. 94537-8401
Web Site — www.sbara.org

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Program Facilitator

Al Rendon, WT6K

Refreshments

Open Position

Board Members at Large

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Sam Severs, WS6S

Douglas Wilson, KG6RHG

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW - 147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5

WA6PWW - 223.900 -500Khz, PL 107.2

WA6PWW - 442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2

K6AIR - 146.940 -600Khz, PL 123.0

K6AIR - 441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0

ARES - Tuesday @ 7:30pm - 147.015 + PL 103.5

CW - Tuesday, 8 p.m. and Sunday, 4 p.m.
on 21.400 Mhz +/- 5 kHz

The South Bay Amateur Radio Association is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. The club has been in existence since 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, a California not-for-profit tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes. We sponsor training for

new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

SBARA meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fremont, California. The meeting begins at 7:30

PM. After conducting business, coffee and snacks are served while we socialize. Following the break, a program of interest will be presented. All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome. We hope to see you there!

For those who would like to upgrade their licenses, here's an alternative testing opportunity. The Silicon Valley VE Group has scheduled regular test sessions every alternate Saturday morning at the HP facility in Cupertino. The ARRL site shows the following info for this Saturday, information:

Sponsor: SILICON VALLEY VE GROUP
Time: 8:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: MORRIS E JONES
(408)507-4698
Email: AD6ZH@ARRL.NET
<mailto:AD6ZH@ARRL.NET>
VEC: ARRL/VEC
<<http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/licensing/vecs.html>>
Location: HEWLETT PACKARD
19333 VALLCO PKWY
BLDG #2
TESTS START BETWEEN 8-10:30AM
MAP N37 19.490 W122 00.568

CUPERTINO, CA 95014

In addition, these sessions are planned every two weeks through at least the end of May (March 17, April 7, April 21...).



Club Classifieds
List your items
for sale or trade
here.

Let other club members know about the gear you wish to sell, trade, need, etc. Send your info to ARRL@WB9YVM before the 15th of each month to get it in the next month's newsletter. Limit your classified to 25 words or less. Ham Radio, Computer, or electronic related items only please. Listings are posted for 1 month, resubmit for additional months. Listings are first-come-first-serve, limited to space available. We reserve the right to edit content.



Announcements

SBARA's monthly meeting is
July 11th. Starting at 7:30pm

Our meeting location is at Hurricane
Electric. The address in Fremont is:

760 Mission Court — Come to the
meeting and bring your HT !!

Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600

Field Day Results @ 7:30PM

The Ground Plane — KU6S
<http://www.sbara.org>
South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA
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